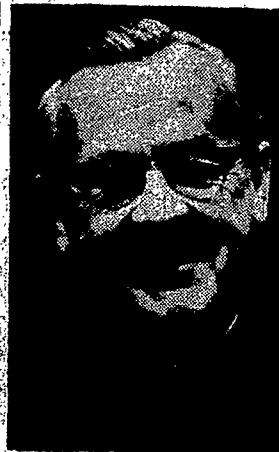


Pastoral Perspective

Corpus Christi School—A Model of Dedication

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

If we believe enough, if we hope enough, our dreams can become realities! Indeed, this has been the creed of the dedicated parents, faculty and supporters of Corpus Christi School!



This June I had the privilege of presiding at the graduation ceremonies for the eighth grade students from Corpus Christi. It was the ninetieth class graduating from the school and the first since the newly formed corporation under the School Board. Rarely do I preside at the graduation ceremonies of grammar schools, but Corpus Christi is very dear to my heart. I wanted to affirm the determination of very

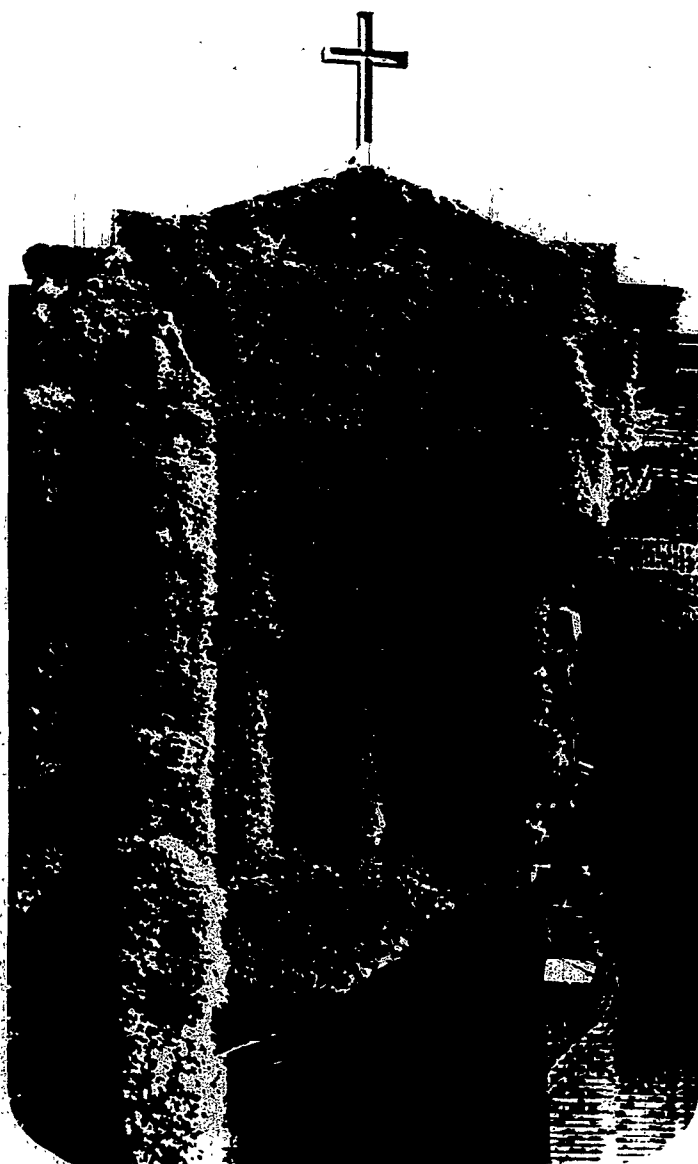
dedicated people.

The theme, "We've come this far by faith," told the story of the past eighteen months of struggle for life to preserve the school ministry in the center city of Rochester. The reality of the people present there, forming a true community, caring and supporting each other, testifies to the power and Faith and perseverance toward an ideal.

Based on financial projections, it did not seem feasible to continue the school ministry after June, 1977. However, the parents of the school children resisted such a decision and pleaded for the opportunity to continue the school on their own and yet within the Catholic educational system of the diocese. They presented a plan which reflected a great commitment and dedication on their part. The diocese accepted it and offered them some assistance and service for their program.

This small number of brave people took upon themselves the responsibility of maintaining a total school program. It was then that the responsive caring from the Church community beyond Corpus Christi area came to life.

I am proud of the people of this diocese who have personally rallied to the needs of Corpus Christi School. It shows the unity of our diocesan family to



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use our strengths to assist members who are struggling. I could list the names of many men and women who have made the continuation of this program possible,

but lest I omit some, I will merely illustrate the help given.

First of all, we recognize the contribution of the Sisters of St. Joseph who have given the services of their Sisters in the special capacity of Administrative Organizer and Bookkeeper, School Board members and parents of children in the school, as well as parishioners of neighboring parishes and not so neighboring — Christ the King and St. Rita's, for example. Other parishes of the Southeast Region have offered financial and supportive assistance.

Contributions great and small have strengthened the unity of the ninety years of history. A graduate of many years ago weekly sends a donation of two or three dollars to help the children to obtain the educational opportunity he experienced. This gift may seem insignificant but it has been the widows' mite that has always brought to the Church her greatest blessings.

Maintaining a building the size and age of Corpus Christi can present concern to those responsible. Just when they began to wonder about meeting the costs of some repairs, another graduate arrived — a carpenter and construction worker — who offered his skills and time to do the needed work. "We've come this far by faith!"

And what is the future of Corpus Christi? It is hopeful. While trends in both public and non-public schools show declines in primary grades, the enrollment there has increased in those grades. Children come from all sections of the city and truly experience a community building development. Their backgrounds vary, yet they are united in a spirit unique to Corpus Christi.

We salute the parents, friends and faculty of this city school. Their message to us is one of faith and trust. We often must make decisions without all of the statistical answers, yet if we value and cherish a dream and have the energy and support of all of our people, the seemingly impossible can happen!

It is a privilege to write this tribute to you, the friends of Corpus Christi. May the Lord continue to prosper your united labor of minds and hearts that reach out to share and to care. God bless you!

At the Tomb of St. Peter

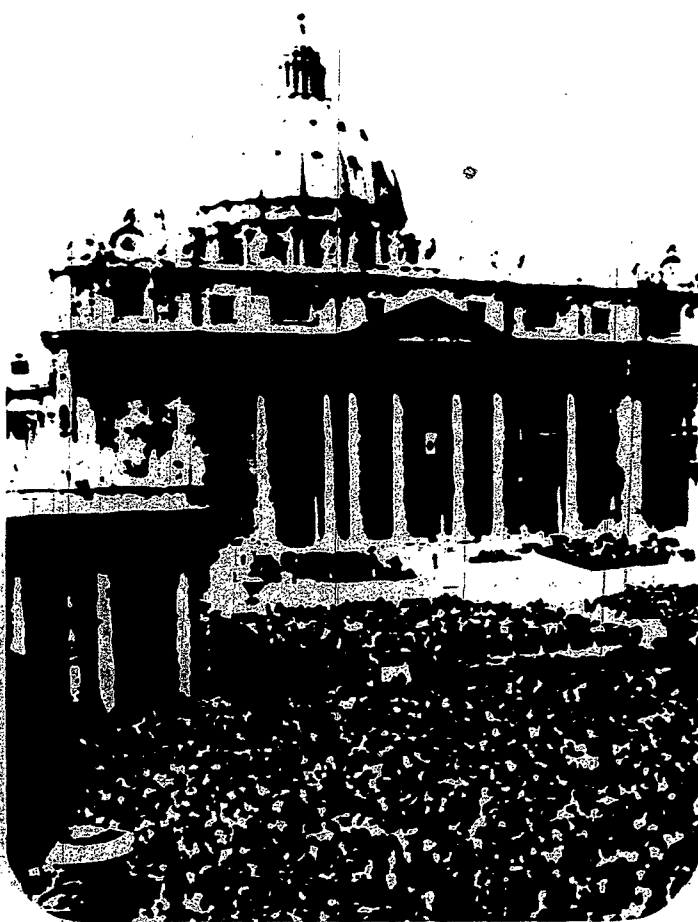
Following is the text of Pope Paul's address given during the general assembly of June 28.

Today, the eve of St. Peter's Feast, it is impossible not to address our devout and impassioned thought to the Apostle Peter, to whose memory and glory the monumental basilica, in the shadow of which we are gathered, is dedicated. The solemnity of such a monument; the convergence of the Vatican buildings and of the Pope's now habitual dwelling, as also of the central offices of the Holy See towards St. Peter's tomb; the riches of art and of memories which make these buildings famous and sacred; the relics of St. Peter himself, now discovered and claimed for history: all these wrap up this place in such an atmosphere of interest, of religion and of sacredness as to oblige the hasty and superficial attention of the curious visitor and, all the more so, that of the aware and devout pilgrim, to stop, at least for a moment, and contemplate as best he can the mysterious secret of this spot.



An incomparable fascination radiated from it not only over the eternal City, but also over the historical and civil world, especially that marked by the Christian charism.

Let us try to determine some reasons for this attraction. The first reason is the historical one, the impact of which is unavoidable if this intelligent guest ultimately surrenders to the proofs of the most recent



studies, and to the conclusions of the examination of the archeological discoveries concerning the tomb of the Apostle Peter. Yes, the historical proof not only of the tomb, but also of his venerated mortal remains, has been attained. Peter is here, where documentary, archeological, circumstantial and logical analysis have finally shown him to be.

In this way we have the consolation of having a direct contact with the source of the most authoritative Roman apostolic tradition. This tradition assures us of the physical presence in Rome of the Head of the College of the first disciples of Jesus Christ, and of the transplantation of the new-born Church from Jerusalem and Antioch to the principal city of the Roman Empire; as if inheriting and replacing its idea of civil and political unity with the unity characteristic of the Christian religion, which is universal and perennial, the spiritual capital of the world.

Here the contact, it can be said, becomes a physical one and commits our attention to a special interest, the interest reserved for places and things determining events of general and supreme importance; history becomes topical and is easily connected with the network of facts and places related to this center, the importance but which, as the ancients said, is a trophy, a monument which recalls the past and challenges the future, and which pushes the spirit from the cycle of palpable experience towards the sphere of the supernatural world.

Sons and Brothers, let us allow our religious piety to have, God willing, some spiritual experience of that kingdom of heaven, the mystical keys of which were given by Christ to the Apostle whose human remains we have the fortune to venerate in the blessed mausoleum which the faith of centuries has erected for their glory and for our religious devotion. And with prayerful and uplifting humility, here on his tomb, on his surviving relics, let us ask the Heavenly Father to keep us firmly founded in the faith of Peter who is the rock of our faith.